Maclachlan, Wills [Secretary, Joint Committee of Technical Organizations] Jan 1918

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# JOINT COMMITTEE OF TECHNICAL ORGANIZATIONS
## ONTARIO BRANCH.

JOINT COMMITTEE

**CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE**
TORONTO BRANCH: W. E. SEGSWORTH
**CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS**
TORONTO BRANCH: G. A. MCCARTHY
**ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS**
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**SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY**
CANADIAN SECTION: S. B. CHADSEY
**ENGINEERING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**
H. G. ACRES
**ENGINEERING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY**
G. C. KEITH
**ENGINEERS CLUB, TORONTO**
W. A. BUCKE

**ALFRED BURTON, CHAIRMAN**
114 BEDFORD RD., TORONTO.

**WILLS MACLACHLAN, SECRETARY**
EXCELSIOR LIFE BUILDING
TORONTO
PHONE MAIN 2966

JOINT COMMITTEE

**ROYAL CANADIAN INSTITUTE**
HARRY JEWELL
**CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION**
G. M. MURRAY
**CANADIAN ENGINEERS, MILITARY DIST. NO. 2**
J. C. ARMER, LIEUT.
**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS**
ONTARIO SECTION: C. B. HAMILTON, JR.
**AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS**
TORONTO SECTION: E. T. J. BRANDON
**INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS**
ONTARIO MEMBERS: S. L. B. LINES
**ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS**
TORONTO CHAPTER: R. K. SHEPARD
**ELECTED MEMBERS**
WALTER CARR H. H. COUZENS
J. H. BLACK

January 12, 1918.

Sir Robert A. Falconer,
President,
University of Toronto,
Toronto.

Dear Sir:

At a recent meeting of the Joint Committee of Technical Organizations, Ontario Branch, the matter of the temporary exemption of technical students from the Military Service Act was taken up and discussed. It was pointed out that if all technical students were required to serve immediately in a military capacity, the work of the technical profession would be very seriously interfered with in the very immediate future, as there would be no junior technical men coming out of the various technical departments of the Universities to assume their responsibilities in the profession.

We are given to understand that in the United States, one-third of the students in attendance at the technical faculties in the Universities were given at least temporary exemption so that they could continue their studies and graduate from their Universities, the choosing of such men being left to a considerable extent to the Faculties of such technical departments of the Universities.

The Joint Committee is collecting detailed information from the United States and has instructed me to write to the Minister of Justice outlining the difficulties under which the technical profession will be placed and suggesting that if in your wisdom you thought it advisable, that it would be of considerable assistance if you would write to the Minister of Justice or such other authority as you saw fit, giving your views on the subject.

I am, Dear Sir Robert,

Yours very truly,

Wills Maclachlan
Secretary

WM/GLM

Maclachlan, Wills
Secretary, Joint Committee of Technical Organizations
Jan 1918

January 15th, 1918

Mr. Mills Maclachlan,

Excelsior Life Building,

Toronto.

Dear Mr. Maclachlan:

The matter that you have brought up in your letter is extremely difficult to deal with. I quite realise that by taking too many of the professional men from the country we are going to suffer seriously when the war is over. Already the Government of themselves have realised that the medical men must be allowed to complete their course except those of the first year. They have also, as you are aware, eliminated the chemists and have given a good deal of consideration to men who could do wireless and electrical work. With regard to both the medical men and the others the University as such has not taken action in asking for exemption. What we have done is to support other bodies who are supposed to know the scope of the field better than we do. It is very difficult for us to make exceptions when we ask for exemptions. School teachers, clergymen, and other professions would come forward and say , we also are essential to the public, and I do not think that our Faculty of Applied Science would be the body to say who of its students should be taken and who should be left. Some objective means of choice would have to be made. If, however, after you have got on some distance with your movement you would like me as President of the University to state what seems to

be the probable result in the future unless care is taken in regard to using the material that we have in the professions for the advantage of the country as a whole, I shall be glad to do so.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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**ELECTED MEMBERS**
WALTER CARR H. H. COUZENS
J. H. BLACK

January 28, 1918.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President.
University of Toronto,
Toronto.

Dear Sir:

Thank you for yours of January 15th, which I received on my return to the city.

Iam attaching copy of a letter that we are sending to the Minister of Justice and it would be of considerable assistance if you could see your way clear to support this action on our part.

Believe me,

Respectfully yours,

Wills MacLachlan
Secretary

WM/GLM

-COPY-

January 29, 1918.

The Minister of Justice,
Department of Militia & Defence,
Ottawa, Can.

Sir:

The Joint Committee of Technical Organizations have been watching with keen interest the operation of the Military Service Act as it effects technical men. Inasmuch as certain cases have come to our attention where the Act does not appear to be operating in the best interest of the allied war aims, we are taking the liberty of bringing a specific instance to your attention.

Recently our Organization was requested to select for "special munitions work" thirty young men with a certain type of university technical training. We immediately got in touch with one of our universities only to find however, that there are no students left in the third and fourth years in this particular department and very few in the first and second years, and we are given to understand that this is typical of all the universities throughout the Dominion.

In view of the urgent necessity as a war measure to maintain unimpaired the engineering strength of the Dominion for the successful prosecution of military operations and for the support of sustaining industries, we respectfully submit that effective steps be taken immediately to remedy this shortage in our university technical classes. The shortage is the result as we see it, of two main casues:

1.- Technical men have been taken from the university classes for merely combatant service where their special training is not used to the best advantage.

2.- There has been no systematic effort made to replenish the technical classes so much depleted.

From this and similar experiences, we are driven to the conclusion that if the war should continue, Canada will soon be drained of young technical men. We urge therefore:

1.- That all possible care be exercised in future that technical men be conserved for their special work, and

2.- That adequate steps be taken immediately to recruit students into our technical classes to make good the inevitable wastage.

It is impossible in a letter to do more than merely outline one or two points, but if this matter to which we are asking your attention should be of sufficient interest, we will be pleased to make further and more definite representations along the line of a possible solution of the difficulty.

Yours respectfully,

SECRETARY

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January 30th, 1918

Wills Maclachlan, Esq.,

Secretary, Joint Committee of Technical Organisations,

Excelsior Life Building,

Toronto.

Dear Mr. Maclachlan:

I am sending you a copy of a letter that I have just addressed to the Honourable the Minister of Justice.

Yours sincerely,

President.